

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO THE KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE AND THE COUNCIL ON UMZUMBE MUNICIPALITY

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Introduction

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Umzumbe Municipality set out on pages ... to ..., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts and the cash flow statement for the year then ended, and the notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Accounting officer's responsibility for the financial statements

2. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and Division of Revenue Act of South Africa, 2012 (Act No. 5 of 2012) (DoRA), and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor-general's responsibility

3. My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA), the general notice issued in terms thereof and International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.
4. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

6. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Umzumbe Municipality as at 30 June 2013, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with SA Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and DoRA.

Emphasis of matters

7. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Restatement of corresponding figures

8. As disclosed in note 27 and note 28 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2012 have been restated as a result of an error discovered during 2013 in the financial statements of the Umzumbe municipality at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2012.

Material impairments

9. As disclosed in note 4 to the financial statements, material impairments to the amount of R 2,37 million was incurred as a result of an impairment of receivables from exchange transactions.
10. As disclosed in note 6 to the financial statements, material impairments to the amount of R 944 265 was incurred as a result of an impairment of receivables from non exchange transactions.

Irregular expenditure

11. As disclosed in note 26 to the annual financial statements, the municipality incurred irregular expenditure of R 11,56 million during the year under review as a result of proper procurement processes not being followed.

Significant uncertainty

12. With reference to note 29 in the financial statements, employees of the municipality have not been paid according to the wage scales and rates in the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Categorisation and job evaluation wage curves collective agreement. The municipality has not finalised job evaluations pending the outcome of the lawsuit by the union disputing the agreement. The amount of the obligation cannot be determined with sufficient reliability and no provision for any liability that may result has been made in the financial statements.

Additional matter

13. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Unaudited supplementary schedules

14. The supplementary information set out on pages XX to XX does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. I have not audited these schedules and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion thereon.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

15. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I report the following findings relevant to performance against predetermined objectives, compliance with laws and regulations and internal control, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion.

Predetermined objectives

16. I performed procedures to obtain evidence about the usefulness and reliability of the information in the annual performance report as set out on pages ... to ... of the annual report.
17. The reported performance against predetermined objectives was evaluated against the overall criteria of usefulness and reliability. The usefulness of information in the annual performance report relates to whether it is presented in accordance with the National Treasury's annual reporting principles and whether the reported performance is consistent with the planned development priorities or objectives. The usefulness of information further relates to whether indicators and targets are measurable (i.e. well defined, verifiable, specific, measurable and time bound) and relevant as required by the

National Treasury Framework for managing programme performance information (FMPPPI).

The reliability of the information in respect of the selected development priorities or objectives is assessed to determine whether it adequately reflects the facts (i.e. whether it is valid, accurate and complete).

18. The material findings are as follows:

Usefulness of information

Measurability

Performance targets not specific

19. The National Treasury FMPPPI requires that performance targets be specific in clearly identifying the nature and required level of performance. A total of 64% of the targets were not specific in clearly identifying the nature and the required level of performance. This was due to the fact that management was aware of the requirements of the FMPPPI but did not implement the application of the principles of the FMPPPI.

Compliance with laws and regulations

20. I performed procedures to obtain evidence that the entity has complied with applicable laws and regulations regarding financial matters, financial management and other related matters. My findings on material non-compliance with specific matters in key applicable laws and regulations as set out in the general notice issued in terms of the PAA are as follows:

Annual financial statements, performance and annual reports

21. The financial statements submitted for auditing were not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122 of the MFMA. Material misstatements of expenditure and disclosure items identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statements were subsequently corrected resulting in the financial statements receiving an unqualified audit opinion.

Procurement and contract management

22. Goods and services of a transaction value above R200 000 were procured without inviting competitive bids, as required by Supply Chain Management (SCM) regulation 19(a). Deviations were approved by the accounting officer even though it was not impractical to invite competitive bids, in contravention of SCM regulation 36(1).
23. The preference point system was not applied in all procurement of goods and services above R30 000 as required by section 2(a) of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act and SCM regulation 28(1)(a).
24. Contracts and quotations were awarded to providers whose tax matters had not been declared to be in order, as required by SCM regulation 43.
25. Awards were made to providers who are in the service of other state institutions or whose directors/ principal shareholders are in the service of other state institutions, in contravention of MFMA 112(j) and SCM regulation 44.

Expenditure management

26. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure as required by section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA.

Internal control

27. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with laws and regulations. The matters reported below under the fundamentals of internal control are limited to the significant deficiencies that resulted in the findings on the annual performance report and the findings on compliance with laws and regulations included in this report.

Leadership

28. The leadership did not adequately review the financial statements prior to submission for audit. Also, compliance with laws and regulations was not adequately monitored by the accounting officer throughout the financial year.

Financial and performance management

29. A system of compliance monitoring was not adequate to support financial reporting.

OTHER REPORTS

Investigations in progress

30. Three disciplinary processes are being conducted on the suspension of municipal officials.

Auditor - General

Pietermaritzburg

30 November 2013



**AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA**

Auditing to build public confidence